Banned Books List: Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2017

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 354 challenges to library, school and university materials and services in 2017. Of the 416 books challenged or banned in 2017, the Top 10 Most Challenged Books are:

BOOK COVER

TITLE, CALL NUMBER & BRIEF DESCRIPTION

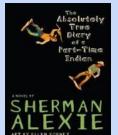


THIRTEEN REASONS WHY

Author: Jay Asher

Call Number: Digital eBook & eAudiobook

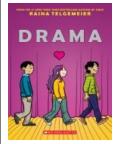
Originally published in 2007, this New York Times bestseller has resurfaced as a controversial book after Netflix aired a TV series by the same name. This YA novel was challenged and banned in multiple school districts because it discusses suicide.



THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

Author: Sheman Alexie Call Number: YA F ALEXIE

Consistently challenged since its publication in 2007 for acknowledging issues such as poverty, alcoholism, and sexuality, this National Book Award winner was challenged in school curriculums because of profanity and situations that were deemed sexually explicit.



DRAMA

Author: Raina Telgemeier

Call Number: GN J TELGEMEIER

This Stonewall Honor Award-winning, 2012 graphic novel from an acclaimed cartoonist was challenged and banned in school libraries because it includes LGBT characters and was considered "confusing."



THE KITE RUNNER

Author: Khaled Hosseini Call Number: F HOSSEINI

This critically acclaimed, multigenerational novel was challenged and banned because it includes sexual violence and was thought to "lead to terrorism" and "promote Islam."



GEORGE

Author: Alex Gino Call Number: J GINO

Written for elementary-age children, this Lambda Literary Award winner was challenged and banned because it includes a transgender child.

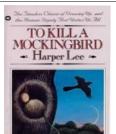


SEX IS A FUNNY WORD

Author: Cory Silverberg

Call Number: eBook on Hoopla

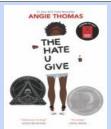
This 2015 informational children's book written by a certified sex educator was challenged because it addresses sex education and is believed to lead children to "want to have sex or ask questions about sex."



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Author: Harper Lee Call Number: F LEE

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, considered an American classic, was challenged and banned because of violence and its use of the N-word.

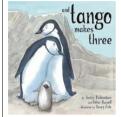


THE HATE U GIVE

Author: Angie Thomas

Call Number: YA F THOMAS

Despite winning multiple awards and being the most searched-for book on Goodreads during its debut year, this YA novel was challenged and banned in school libraries and curriculums because it was considered "pervasively vulgar" and because of drug use, profanity, and offensive language.



AND TANGO MAKES THREE

Author: Peter Parnell & Justin Richardson

Call Number: J 598.47 RIC

Returning after a brief hiatus from the Top Ten Most Challenged list, this ALA Notable Children's Book, published in 2005, was challenged and labeled because it features a same-sex relationship.



I AM JAZZ

Author: Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings

Call Number: J 306.768 HER

This autobiographical picture book co-written by the 13-year-old protagonist was challenged because it addresses gender identity.